

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were originally filed in the present application.

Claims 1-23 were rejected in the 21 November 2007 Office Action.

No claims have been allowed.

Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 are cancelled herein.

Claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended herein.

Claims 1-7, 10-16, and 19-23 remain in the present application.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In Section 1 of the 21 November 2007 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 1, 10 and 19 due to the use of the phrase “capable of” in those claims. The Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10 and 19 to eliminate these objections.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §112

In Sections 2-6 of the 21 November 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. With respect to Claims 1 and 10, the Examiner stated that the limitation “said data packets” in lines 14 and 18 of Claim 1 and lines 15 and 19 of Claim 10 is indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis, since it is allegedly unclear to which of the data

packets recited earlier in Claims 1 and 10 this phrase refers. The Applicant notes that amendments made herein have obviated this objection. With respect to Claims 2-5, 11-14 and 19-23, the Examiner stated that the limitation “said security and classification functions” are indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis, since it is allegedly unclear to which of the security and classification functions recited earlier in this claims. The Applicant notes that amendments made herein have obviated this objection.

III. CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. §103

In Sections 7-9 of the 21 November 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 6-10 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/170,515 (Publication No. 2003/0231625) to *Calvignac, et al.* (hereafter, “*Calvignac*”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,393,026 to *Irwin* (hereafter, “*Irwin*”). In Section 10 of the 21 November 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2, 5, 11, 14, 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Calvignac* reference in view of the *Irwin* reference and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,197,035 to *Asano* (hereafter, “*Asano*”). In Section 11 of the 21 November 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Calvignac* reference in view of the *Irwin* reference and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/ 716,622 (Publication No. 2004/0100956) to *Watanabe* (hereafter, “*Watanabe*”).

The Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse the above §103(a) rejections. The Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to amended Claim 1, which recites the unique and novel limitations emphasized below:

1. A router for interconnecting external devices coupled to said router, said router comprising:

a switch fabric; and

a plurality of routing nodes coupled to said switch fabric, wherein each of said plurality of routing nodes comprises packet processing circuitry for transmitting data packets to, and receiving data packets from, said external devices and further for transmitting data packets to, and receiving data packets from, other ones of said plurality of routing nodes via said switch fabric, wherein said packet processing circuitry comprises:

a first network processor comprising a first plurality of microengines, each of said first plurality of microengines for performing security and classification functions associated with said data packets, wherein said first network processor processes data packets being transmitted from said external devices to said switch fabric; and

a second network processor comprising a second plurality of microengines, each of said second plurality of microengines for performing security and classification functions associated with said data packets, wherein said second network processor processes data packets being transmitted from said switch fabric to said external devices. (emphasis added)

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the above-emphasized limitations are not disclosed, taught or even suggested in any one of the *Calvignac* reference, the *Irwin* reference, the *Asano* reference, or the *Watanabe* reference, or in any combination of two or more of the *Calvignac*, *Irwin*, *Asano* and *Watanabe* references.

With respect to the *Irwin* reference, the Applicants respectfully assert that, contrary to the Examiner's statements, the multiple CPUs (or processors) in Figure 7 of the *Irwin* reference cited by the Examiner are not the same as the Claim 1 limitation regarding a first network processor

comprising a first plurality of microengines and a second network processor comprising a second plurality of microengines. There is no mention in the *Irwin* reference that any of the CPUs 114 in Figure 7 of the *Irwin* reference comprises a plurality of microengines.

The prior art references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest the unique and novel limitations recited in independent Claim 1, as amended. Independent Claims 10 and 19 recite limitations that are analogous to the unique and novel limitations cited in Claim 1 and are also patentable over the cited prior art references. Additionally, dependent Claims 2-9, 11-18, and 20-23 depend from the independent Claims 1, 10 and 19, respectively, and contain all of the unique and novel limitations recited in Claims 1, 10 and 19, respectively. This being the case, these dependent claims are also patentable over the cited prior art references.

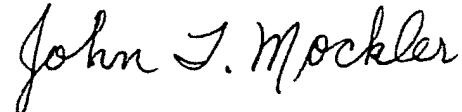
SUMMARY

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and that this application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK BUTRUS CARTER, P.C.



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John T. Mockler
Registration No. 39,775

P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
Phone: (972) 628-3600
Fax: (972) 628-3616
E-mail: *jmockler@munckbutrus.com*